

Advanced Research Methods and Skills

Introduction

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What will we do in this course

1. Learn basic research methods and skills
2. Exercise
 - ▶ writing
 - ▶ reviewing
 - ▶ presentation
 - ▶ discussion

and help each other to improve these skills.

Organization: 2 groups

Both groups: Lectures for the first 2 (or 3) weeks, Thu 10-12.

Two groups: A, B (random draw)

Group A: Have all presentations in about 7 weeks following, Thu 10-12

Group B: Have all presentations on Jun 27 and 28.

swapping can be done in mutual agreement, but please notify me.

What group A will do:

Form: for each meeting (group A):

- ▶ 2 students prepare a written paper (MSc thesis proposal)
- ▶ distributed this by email least 72 hours before we meet
- ▶ each of the students comments on this by email to the author and to me, before the meeting
- ▶ at the meeting they present it (10 mins), and we discuss both presentation and paper, in terms of contents and presentation skills.

Requirements and grading

Requirement: presence on 80% of the meetings; handing in and presenting a thesis proposal.

Grading is based on (i) quality of proposal and presentation, (ii) active participation (written, oral).

About *anything* you write...

should contain:

- ▶ author (you), first name, last name
- ▶ other identification/contact issues: student number, affiliation, address, email
- ▶ if relevant: context—what is it? (thesis proposal, course name and number to which it relates)
- ▶ date of writing
- ▶ when relevant: version information

Thesis proposal

Contains:

- ▶ Title, name, date, context
- ▶ Thesis outline
- ▶ Proposed table of contents
- ▶ Proposed time schedule

Thesis outline:

- ▶ something inbetween introduction and abstract: contains references, scientific embedding, context, motivation
- ▶ contains objectives/planned work/results/...
- ▶ should be to-the-point

To be efficient, the thesis proposal should be the, or a first stage of, thesis proposal you need to make anyway.

Material

Two useful books:

1. Martha Davis, 1997, Scientific Papers and Presentations, Academic Press.
2. Strunk and White, 1979, The elements of Style. Allyn and Bacon.